

## **Immunization Registry Progress in New Jersey**

### **Immunization Coverage in New Jersey:**

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 85%. This coverage rate is five percentage points above the national average and is among the top ten states in this immunization coverage category.

### **Facts about New Jersey Immunization Information system (NJIS):**

- NJIS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of New Jersey.
- The targeted age group for NJIS is birth through preschool (4-6 years of age).
- Currently, entities which link with the registry include:
  - Vital Records Department
  - Community/Migrant Health Centers
- As of June 21, 1999:
  - 9% of children less than 6-years old were enrolled in the registry.
  - 3% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

### **Other unique qualities about NJIS:**

- NJIS is available statewide
- NJIS uses the Internet as the communication system
- The immunization status of a child is color coded for the ease of the user

### **Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes:**

- There are 270,000 children in the system
- NJIS is installed at 170 sites statewide
- NJIS began operation in Camden in 1995. Since 1997, the project has expanded and new parents enter the system at the birth hospital through the electronic birth record or through participating health providers.
- Future activities include the legislative establishment of the registry, the consideration of the necessity to obtain signed parental consent to participate in the registry, and securing stable funding to support the registry using tobacco settlement money, foundation grants, or other funding mechanisms.

### **Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress:**

- A barrier to rapid deployment to private physicians is the inability to interface with a provider's billing system, therefore, there has been difficulty with the recruitment of private physicians.
- It has been difficult to plan and implement the registry because of uncertain funding.

### **Current registry funding:**

NJIS is currently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Program and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

**Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in New Jersey:**

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**Suggestions for Mr. Whitman's involvement and support:**

Liaison with New Jersey corporations in the effort to seek long term funding for the continuation of the registry.